

REMARKS

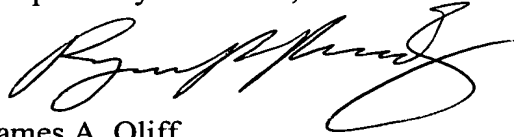
Claims 1-31 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 24-26 are amended. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found, for example, in the claims as originally filed. No new matter is added.

Applicants provisionally elect Group III, claims 24-26 and elect isocyanate as a species of the functional group for compound A, with traverse. At least claims 24-26 read on the elected species and are generic.

Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of all the claims and species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims or species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims and species. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. *See* MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). Applicants respectfully submit that this policy should apply in the present application to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement.

Respectfully submitted,



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